



Trawden Urban District Council.

YEAR 1920.

Annual Report

OF THE

**Medical Officer of
... Health. ...**

G. SKEEN, M.B., C.M.



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Trawden Urban District Council.



GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Eighteenth Annual Report for the year 1920, which compares favourably with former years.

There were 38 DEATHS, nineteen males and nineteen females, This gives a DEATH RATE of 13·6 per 1000 of the population, an increase on 1919.

There were 52 BIRTHS, twenty-four males and twenty-eight females. This gives a BIRTH RATE of 18·7, a large increase on the previous year.

No illegitimate Birth was recorded.

There were 800 inhabited houses. No change for the past six years. The average number of inhabitants to each house was slightly under 4. No overcrowding.

Many more houses are required in the district and steps are being taken to provide sufficient homes to meet the deficiency. All new houses built will be perfect as regards sanitation.

FIVE INFANTS died in 1920. This gives an Infant Death Rate of 96 per 1000 births registered, which is more than for the previous year and about the average for the past ten years. Three infants survived for 9½, 12 and 24 hours respectively. Two suffering from debility from birth and one from malformation. One infant died, aged one month, from broncho-pneumonia and one of five months from convulsions.

One case of Diphtheria was notified and one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. No deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were recorded.

There was one death from Influenza and four deaths were caused by Pneumonia.

No disease was caused through the agency of house flies.

The number of Deaths was :—

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| In the first year | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Between 1 and 2 years | ... | ... | ... | — |
| From 2 years and under 4 | ... | ... | ... | — |
| From 5 to 15 years | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Between 15 and 25 years | ... | ... | ... | — |
| From 25 to 45 years | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| From 45 to 65 years | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| From 65 years and upwards | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | <u>38</u> |

The average age at death was 55 years.

Deaths were notified in persons aged 77, 80, 82, 83, and two at 84 years.

The lowest mortality was in the months of February and May. The greatest mortality was in the months of March and December.

WATER SUPPLY.—The village of Trawden and the upper portion of Winewall are supplied from a boring on Boulsworth Hill. An unfailing supply of excellent water is conveyed to the houses through pipes.

The area of the district 6,815 acres. The urban portions consist of the village of Trawden and the hamlet of Winewall. The rest of the district is composed of meadow and pasture land and moors. The sub-soil is clay. The district east of the Trawden river is on sandstone and millstone grit, varied by shale strata. On the west of the river there is a large coal-field, which at present is not worked.

The district is high above the sea level, the altitude varying from 520 to 1700 feet.

The population according to the census return for 1911, was 2973. The estimated population for 1920 is 2790.

The staple industry of the district is cotton weaving. There is also a valuable sandstone quarry and a dye-works. Many of the inhabitants make a living by farming.

The people are of a hardy, thrifty and industrious race. Little poor-law relief is given or required.

The rainfall is heavy. No river pollution.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—All in good conditions. No complaints.

HOUSE REFUSE.—The removal of refuse is satisfactorily performed. Disused quarries are used as depositing places.

BAKE-HOUSES.—Four, all in good condition.

DAIRIES.—None.

COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.—A still further improvement as regards the condition of the cowsheds. The cattle are well cared for and well housed.

THE COUNCIL SCHOOL educates and cares for the children under ideal conditions. The medical inspection of the children is satisfactorily carried out.

LODGING-HOUSES.—None.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS are in good order.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR makes monthly visits and reports the condition of the factories as good. The Weaving Sheds are kept clean, are periodically white-washed and are well ventilated. The workshops are in good order.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Fumigation, disinfection, general cleanliness and isolation. The Council has arranged with the Nelson Corporation for the disinfection of clothing when required.

METHODS OF CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.—One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was reported. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded. All cases of tuberculosis come under my observation. The patients receive expert advice under the National Insurance Act, also Sanatorium Benefits.

I visit all parts of the district daily and am always well informed of all influences which may tend to affect the public health.

SCAVENGING.—Done by employees of the Council. In 1920, 15,200 closets and 14,600 ashpits were emptied.

SEWAGE.—The Sewage Works are in good order and working satisfactorily.

MIDWIVES' ACT.—There are no registered midwives in the district. Maternity cases are frequently attended by the midwives from the neighbouring locality. The patients are attended in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—160 houses were inspected. I consider that 25 houses may be regarded as unfit for human habitation unless extensive repairs are made, and that 76 houses require alterations and repairs before they can be classed as attaining a reasonable standard of fitness and sanitation.

| No. of houses inspected. | No. of houses considered unfit for human habitation. | No. of houses in which defects were remedied. | No. of houses demolished. | Character of Defects found. |
|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|
| 160 | 25 | 8 | None | Fixed lights, Back to back, Defective drains, Dampness, No secondary means of access, Defective eaves, No ashpit accommodation. |

Fifty gullies have been emptied and twenty-four blocked gullies opened.

There are in the district 671 closets of the following classes :—

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Pails | ... | ... | 309 | 7 less than last year. |
| Waste Water | ... | ... | 237 | 4 more „ „ |
| Clean Water | ... | ... | 116 | 4 „ „ „ |
| Tanks | ... | ... | 9 | |

Also 388 receptacles for ashes as follows :—

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Ashpits | ... | ... | 323 | 2 less than last year. |
| Ashbins | ... | ... | 65 | 3 more „ „ |

There have been the following conversions during the year :—

2 ashpits to ashbins.
 4 pail closets to 4 clean water closets.
 4 „ „ 4 waste „ „
 1 ashbin and 1 pail closet added.

Nuisances abated upon verbal instructions, 4. Notices served and abated, 1.

I give a Table showing the Conversion of Sanitary Conveniences during the years 1916 to 1920 :—

| | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Privies fixed to moveable receptacles | ... | ... | 4 | 5 | ... |
| ” with fixed receptacles to fresh water closets ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| ” with fixed receptacles to waste water closets ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 |
| ” with moveable receptacles to fresh water closets ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| ” with moveable receptacles to waste water closets... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals | 2 | ... | 4 | 12 | 8 |

I wish to thank the Members of the Council and their Officials for their sympathy and help in all matters of importance relating to my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEORGE SKEEN, M.B.,C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Craven House, Colne,
Sept. 5th, 1921.

